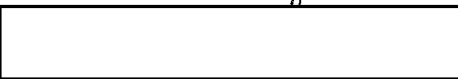


**THE MAN WHO KEPT THE SECRETS:****Richard Helms & the CIA***Thomas Powers*. Knopf, \$12.95 ISBN 0-394-50678-2

Written by an outsider—a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter who acquired extensive inside information—this is perhaps the best book to date about the CIA. Powers gives a detailed account of the career of Richard Helms, CIA director from 1966 to 1973, when he was dismissed by Richard Nixon. Helms was regarded as an able, responsible civil servant who (as Allen Dulles put it) was useful and knew how to keep his mouth shut. His willingness to compromise did much to maintain a truce in the intelligence community but also resulted in a refusal, or inability, to make unpleasant decisions. Powers relates episodes involving CIA attempts to overthrow governments and assassinate foreign leaders and rivalries between the CIA and the FBI and within the CIA itself. The cast of characters is large, the variety of involvements intricate. Readers will find much of the material revelatory, including Powers's conclusion: "The CIA does not have any assets which would give explicit warning of a Russian decision to attack the United States." [October 19]



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Richard Helms &amp; the CIA

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